

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

Listing of Claims:

1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A processor-enabled method for providing a program price for the purchase of a vehicle fuel, comprising:

receiving customer usage data;

~~querying a database for program sponsor data associated with the customer usage data;~~

receiving ~~the~~ program sponsor data, wherein said program sponsor data includes an amount of a finder's fee paid by a program sponsor to a program operator;

calculating a guaranteed program price for a type of vehicle fuel, using customer usage data and said finder's fee amount of said program sponsor data, wherein said customer usage data includes a quantity of fuel to be purchased and a number of months during which the guaranteed program price will apply for the type of fuel to be purchased;

using said customer usage data and said finder's fee amount of said program sponsor data to develop a financial hedging strategy to diminish a risk to the program operator in connection with volatility of fuel prices; and

storing said guaranteed program price for use in association with a purchase of said vehicle fuel.

32-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 31 wherein calculating said guaranteed program price includes calculating multiple guaranteed program prices for multiple geographic regions.

39. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 31 wherein said hedging strategy includes purchasing a futures contract on said vehicle fuel.

40. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 31 wherein said program price is a percentage discount to a current price.

41. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 31 wherein said program price is a capped price.

42-54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently Amended) A processor-enabled method for providing a program price for the purchase of a vehicle fuel, comprising:

receiving customer usage data;

~~querying a database for program sponsor data associated with the customer usage data;~~

receiving ~~the~~ program sponsor data, wherein said program sponsor data includes an amount of a finder's fee paid by a program sponsor to a program operator;

determining a market indicator relevant to the future price of-a vehicle fuel;

calculating-a guaranteed program price using the received customer usage data and program sponsor data, wherein said usage data includes a quantity of fuel to be purchased, a number of months during which the guaranteed program price will apply and a type of fuel to be purchased;

using customer usage data, said finder's fee amount of said program sponsor data and said market indicator to develop a financial hedging strategy to diminish a risk to the program operator in connection with volatility of fuel prices; and

storing said guaranteed program price for use in association with a purchase of said vehicle fuel.

56-60. (Cancelled)

61. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 55 wherein ~~said step of~~ calculating said guaranteed program price further includes using said hedging strategy.

62-64. (Cancelled)

65. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 55 wherein ~~said step of~~ calculating said guaranteed program price includes calculating multiple guaranteed program prices for multiple geographic regions.

66. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 55 wherein said hedging strategy includes purchasing a futures contract on said vehicle fuel.

67. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 55 wherein said guaranteed program price is a percentage discount to a current price.

68. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 55 wherein said program price is a capped price.

69-114. (Cancelled)